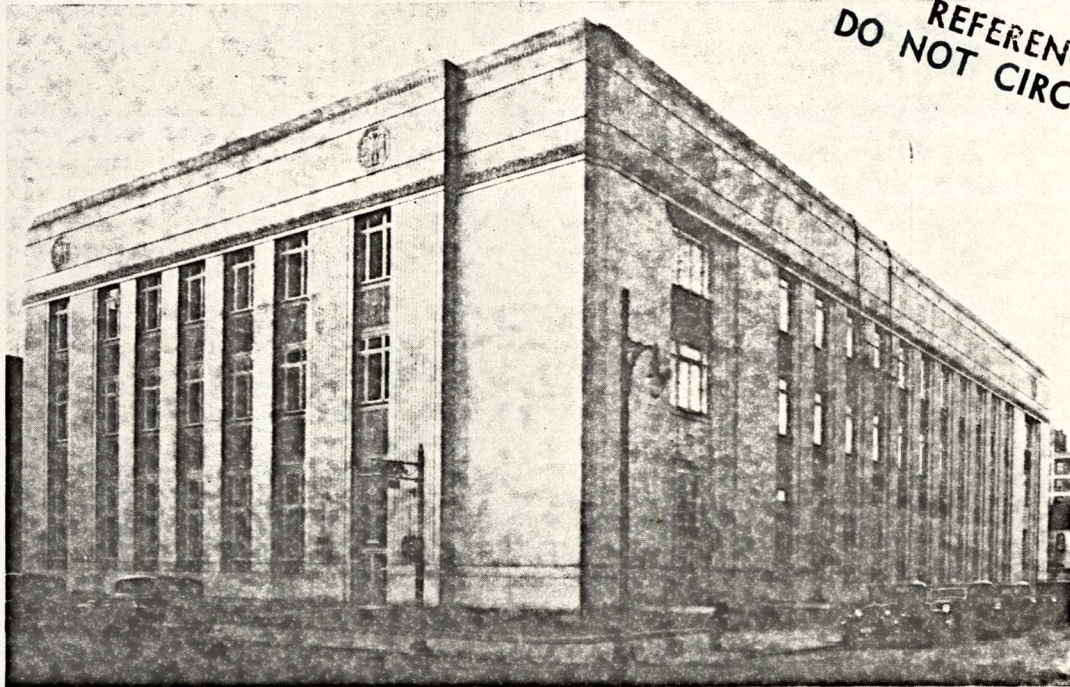


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Terre Haute Federal Building

## Terre Haute and Vigo County

TERRE HAUTE and Vigo County have a striking historic background. One hundred and thirty years ago, in September, 1811, William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Northwest Territory, with headquarters at Vincennes, built a fort on the east bank of the Wabash river, a few miles north of the present Terre Haute, as a protection against the Indians, who resented the encroachment of the whites, who were beginning to take up the land which the Indians believed belonged to them. In the Governor's honor the fort was named Fort Harrison. On September 4, 1812, the fort was attacked by a group of Indians, who were driven off by the small force of U. S. regulars and militia, under command of Capt. Zachary Taylor. This defeat, following that at Tippecanoe, was the climax of the breaking of the power of the British in the middle west. The builder of the fort became the ninth President of the United States, in the "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," campaign of 1840. Capt. Taylor, who played a prominent part in the Mexican war, became the twelfth President of the United States. The names of two Presidents thus became identified with the history of Fort Harrison. If Fort Harrison had been located in either the East or the South, it would have become a national shrine, because of the historic importance attached to it, but the struggles of the early pioneers prevented them from realizing the part the fort and its defense played in that epoch-making period. The site of the old fort is now the home of the Elks Fort Harrison Country Club, located on one of the most beautiful spots on the Wabash river, between its source and the Ohio river into which it empties. In September 1912, the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Fort Harrison, the public-spirited citizens of the community erected a huge stone marker on the grounds of the Country Club, which bears a bronze tablet, setting forth the facts referred to herein.

Vigo County was named in honor of Col. Francis Vigo, a native of Sardinia, who came to the United States when comparatively a young man, and engaged in the fur trade, in which he amassed a competency for those days. In 1779 he loaned money to General George Rogers Clark, with which to provide rations for his soldiers in their campaign to recapture Vincennes from the British. He is said also to have loaned money to General Clark for his expedition to Oregon, which led to the development of the great Northwest. The original amount loaned by Col. Vigo to General Clark was \$11,387.40, for which he received four drafts on the financial

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



agent of Virginia. When, nearly one hundred years later, in 1875, the claim was allowed by the Congress, the principal and interest amounted to \$500,000. On July 4, 1832, Col. Vigo came to Terre Haute as the guest of the leading citizens and spent several days here, many honors being paid him. Although then past ninety years of age, the legends of those days said that he retained much of his natural vigor of both body and mind. He was so pleased by the honors shown him that in his will, written December 9, 1834, he provided that when his claim against the government was paid, \$500 should be set aside to purchase a bell for the Vigo County Court House. He died in poverty in a shack in Vincennes in 1836, at the age of ninety-six. The records show that this money was paid to the county in April, 1876, by Touissant C. Buntin, a distant relative of Col. Vigo, who enjoyed the benefits of the fortune into which Vigo's original claim had grown by the passage of time. When the present Court House was erected, 1884-1887, the bell was purchased and placed in the dome of the building, more than a hundred years after Col. Vigo had set aside the money for that purpose. It bears this inscription, "By His Will \$500 of the Cost of This Bell was Presented by FRANCIS VIGO, to Vigo County, Indiana, 1887."

Although history records the facts, it is not generally known, that the original territory of which Indiana is now a part was held under the dominion of three nations, whose flags floated over portions of it, before it came into its own under the Stars and Stripes. When DeSoto discovered the Mississippi river in 1539, he laid claim in the name of the King of Spain to all the territory tributary to the Father of Waters. Then LaSalle and Marquette and other French explorers claimed it for France, followed by the British. The defeat of the latter in the American Revolution, and again in the War of 1812, settled for all time that they had no title in the new republic.

## TERRE HAUTE'S BEGINNING

Terre Haute was founded in 1816, the same year Indiana was admitted to statehood. The plat of the original town comprises thirty-five blocks, bounded on the north by Eagle street, on the east by Fifth street, on the south by Swan street, and on the west by Water street. Of these blocks one was set off for a public square, on which the Court House has since been located, a part of another block for a church, which was occupied by the Asbury M. E. church at the north-west corner of Fourth and Poplar streets, and part of another block for a schoolhouse, the site of the recent Hook school at Fourth and Mulberry streets. The tract of land comprising the town site was entered at the land office at Vincennes by Joseph Kitchell, on September 19, 1816, who a few days later sold it to the Terre Haute Land Company. Members of this company were Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt, of Louisville, Abram Markle, of Fort Harrison, Hyacinth Lassell, of Vincennes, and Jonathan Lindley, of Orange County.

Vigo County was created by act of the state legislature January 21, 1818, and when the Land Company offered the commissioners \$4,000—no small sum in those days—for the privilege of having Terre Haute as the county seat, the offer was accepted. The erection of a court house was begun at once, and completed in 1822. The town began to grow at once, not by leaps and bounds, but gradually, an advancement that has been maintained throughout the years. In 1826, the population was 579; in 1835, 1,214; in 1840, 2,300; 1850, 3,572; 1860, 8,594; 1870, 16,103; 1880, 26,042; 1890, 30,217; 1900, 36,673; 1910, 58,157; 1920, 66,083; 1930, 62,810; 1940, 62,693, metropolitan area, 86,571. It is estimated that the population of the trade area of which Terre Haute is the center is 398,932.

From its founding until May 10, 1838, Terre Haute continued as an unincorporated town. On the date named it was incorporated as a town, and continued as such until May 30, 1853, when it was organized as a city under the act of the legislature of June 18, 1852. It was given a special charter March 3, 1899, under which it operated until the passage of the Municipal bill of March 6, 1905. This act created cities of the first, second, third and fourth classes, the difference in classification depending on population and valuation for tax purposes. Under this law Terre Haute was classed as a third class city until the census of 1920 took it out of that class and made it a second class city, which it has since remained. Under this law elections were held every four years, in the odd-numbered years, but in 1933 the state legislature enacted what was known as the "skip election law," which brought the city elections in the same year as the general elections. The legislature of 1941 repealed this law, returning the elections to the odd-numbered years, but this latter act has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the state. In 1929 a determined effort was made to adopt the so-called city manager plan of municipal government, but at a special election held in June of that year it was defeated.

The system of municipal government is what is known as the Federal system, a mayor, city clerk, city judge, a councilman from each of the seven wards and three councilmen at large being elected by popular vote. All officers are elected for four years, and the mayor is empowered to name the appointive officers, including a board of public works and safety, composed of the city controller, city attorney and city engineer. The city is conducted on the budget system, the annual budget being subject to final review and approval or disapproval by the state board of tax commissioners, after it has been approved by a county board of tax review named by the Judge of the Circuit Court. After the adoption of the annual budget, additional appropriations are permitted, but they must meet the approval of the state board of tax commissioners. The present elective officers of Terre Haute are: Mayor, Joseph P. Duffy; city clerk, Ralph Tucker; city judge, Herbert H. Criss; councilmen-at-large, Robert E. Welch, John J. Carney, and William Kelly; First ward, Herman Neal; Second ward, Frank Doyle; Third ward, Ernest Nicoson; Fourth ward, Charles P. Koll; Fifth ward, Marvin Taylor; Sixth ward, Frank Smith.

## TRANSPORTATION AND RAW MATERIALS

Situated in the heart of the Indiana bituminous coal belt, surrounded by almost inexhaustible deposits of clay, fire clay, shale, for the manufacture of brick and clay products, with sand and gravel and glass sand for use in the manufacture of bottles, and a water supply noted for its purity, with a transportation system unequalled, Terre Haute is ideally located for the manufacture and shipment of the products of its highly diversified industries. The city is located on the main lines of two east and west railroads, the New York Central and the Pennsylvania systems, admittedly two of the greatest transportation systems of the land, connecting the eastern markets through the important St. Louis gateway with the great Southwest. Then, North and South, it has the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railway, connecting Chicago with the South and Southeast, via Nashville, Atlanta and Birmingham, while the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railway connects it with the great Northwest, the coal this system carries to the northwest alone enabling numerous mines to operate along its lines in Southern Indiana. In addition to rail transportation, truck lines operating with Terre Haute as a base, haul freight in every direction, with safety and dispatch. This business is made possible by innumerable concrete highways, based on United States Roads Nos. 40 and 41, which cross in the downtown business district of the city, the crossing point being known as the "Cross Roads of the World." No. 40 was the original National Road, which was begun in the last century as a government project, connecting the national capital with St. Louis, the only method of those days for transportation between the east and the west. No. 41 is known as the "Dixie Highway," connecting the northernmost points in the United States with its southernmost.

Terre Haute is distant from St. Louis 188 miles; from Chicago, 178 miles; from Cincinnati, 183 miles; and from Louisville 178 miles. It is within a few miles of the center of population of the United States, as shown by the 1940 census; within a radius of fifty miles, 500,000 persons live, and within a radius of five hundred miles Terre Haute is in touch with more than half of the population of the United States.

## BANKS AND BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Financially, Terre Haute is represented by two national banks, each with a branch, a savings bank and two state banks, and by eight building and loan associations. A survey for 1941 made by the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, shows that the total bank resources of the city as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$52,989,143.38, a decided gain over 1940, when these resources were \$48,050,483.52. Bank clearances for 1941 were \$385,462,651.49, as compared to \$305,139,071.33 for 1940. Total bank deposits as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$36,718,502.75. The total building and loan resources as of Dec. 31, 1941, were \$13,873,308.62, an increase of over \$300,000 over 1940. Outside of the capital Terre Haute is said to lead in the building and loan business of the state. Due to the help of the associations in the purchase of homes, it is said that over sixty-five per cent of the householders of the city own their own homes. All building and loan associations are protected by Federal insurance.

Other interesting figures given by the survey referred to are that there were 26,190 motor vehicle registrations in 1941, the postal receipts were \$531,035.70, and building permits were issued for a total of \$434,866.00. The total car loadings for 1941 were 116,027 as compared to 88,254 for 1940, a sure indication of bettered business conditions. There were 28,104 electric



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meters, 14,717 gas meters, 14,696 water meters and 16,666 telephones registered in 1941, each showing a decided increase over the number in use during the preceding year.

The location of a \$53,000,000 Federal ordnance plant in Vermillion county, north of Terre Haute, on which construction work is now in progress, is expected to give an impetus to every branch of trade and industry in the territory surrounding the plant, and the effects of this increase is already being felt in Terre Haute.

## NOTABLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

As notable as Terre Haute is as an industrial center, it is equally outstanding for three educational institutions, with nation-wide reputations. These, in the order of their founding, are, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College, Indiana State Teachers College and Rose Polytechnic Institute. Neither Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College or Rose Polytechnic Institute is located in Terre Haute, but are recognized as Terre Haute institutions.

Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College, several miles northwest of the city, was founded by the Sisters of Providence, in the heart of the wilderness in 1840. Mother Theodore Guerin, with her little band of five Sisters came to Indiana from France at the invitation of the Bishop of Vincennes, and what is now one of the leading educational institutions of the kind in the world, began with a rude log chapel, and a few rooms of a farmer's house. Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods is the mother house of some sixteen hundred Sisters of Providence, who teach in schools from California to Massachusetts, and even to far-off China, where at Keifung, there is a primary school, a high school with an enrollment of five hundred Chinese girls, and an orphanage which has won the highest rating of the government. This high school has sent a number of its graduates to Catholic colleges in the United States. Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods is an independent municipality in itself, growing its own fruits and flowers in its orchards and flower gardens, mining its own coal from its own mine to furnish fuel to the power house, which supplies electricity and water. It has its own bakery, laundry and printing shop, and a hotel furnishes guests all the comforts and luxuries of a city hotel. The magnificent architecture of its majestic buildings, the landscaping so artistically carried out, unite to make a scene of beauty that is inspiring to the spirit when they have disappeared from view. A visit to Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods is one of the pleasures offered to visitors to Terre Haute, the graciousness of the Sisters making each visitor feel perfectly at home.

The Indiana State Teachers College, founded in 1870 as the Indiana State Normal school, fits young men and women for teaching and issues to its graduates degrees of B. S. and A. B., and ranks high among the first ten teachers colleges in the United States. It is the fourth largest college or university in Indiana, in point of enrollment, and the sixth largest teachers college in the nation. There have been added during the administration of the present President, Ralph N. Tiley, the Laboratory school, the largest in the mid-west, the W. W. Parsons Hall, a Fine Arts and Commerce building, at an approximate cost of \$350,000, and a Student Union building and Auditorium at a cost of over \$400,000. The City of Terre Haute, appreciating what the extension of the College means to the city, vacated four blocks of city streets surrounding the college, that have been transformed into campus areas. Graduates of the college hold important positions in the educational systems of practically every state in the union and in many foreign lands. A recent survey disclosed the fact that Indiana State Teachers College has a larger representation in "Who's Who in America" than any other teachers college in the country, and this supremacy also marks the Dictionary of American Biography.

Rose Polytechnic Institute, founded and endowed by Chauncey Rose, has every facility for the higher education of young men in mechanical, electrical, civil, architectural and chemical engineering. Admission is based on a four years' course in high schools and academics of the highest ratings. It is regarded as one of the best institutions of the kind in the United States, and every year at graduation time it has become the custom for the great industrial corporations of the country to send representatives to the school to select young men to adopt into their respective institutions, where they ultimately become leaders in the industrial world. One of its graduates was chief mechanical engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, while a member of the same class was a vice-president of the great Pennsylvania railroad system. Still another was Commissioner of Lighthouses at Washington, one was president of New York City's rapid transit system, and in almost every line of industrial endeavor throughout the country, some graduate of Rose is found holding a position of importance. Students have come from Latin-American countries and from Japan, and a graduate from one of these South American republics represented

his government as its minister at Washington. So wide spread are the graduates of Rose that Rose Tech clubs are maintained in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Schenectady, Youngstown, O., and Southern California. Military science is featured in the curriculum of the school, and eighty-three of comparatively recent graduates of the military department are holding commissions of importance in the armed forces of the United States in the present emergency, while others are engaged in national defense work.

The public school system of Terre Haute maintains eighteen grade schools, four junior high schools and four senior high schools. A public library is conducted as part of the school system, with eighteen branches. In addition there are seven Catholic grade schools with one Catholic high school, with one Lutheran school and a private classical school. In the townships of the county outside the city there are thirty-five township schools, with approximately 285 teachers, while there are approximately 381 teachers in the city schools, and approximately 39 teachers in the parochial schools.

## SHELDON SWOPE ART GALLERY

March 21, 1942, marked a decisive step forward in the artistic history of Terre Haute. On that date the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery was opened to the public, with its art treasures to be displayed free of charge to residents of Terre Haute and Vigo County. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Swope building, at the northwest corner of Seventh and Ohio streets, which has been completely remodelled into an attractive modern gallery. It is equipped with fluorescent lighting, colored plaster walls and comfortable leather furniture.

Sheldon Swope was a successful business man of Terre Haute, who, in his will, written in 1903, and never changed, provided that ten years after his death, which occurred July 9, 1929, the accumulated income of his estate was to be used to alter the Swope block into suitable form for the art gallery proposed. The Terre Haute First National Bank was made trustee of the estate, and three board managers, appointed by the Judge of the Vigo Circuit Court, are to conduct the gallery without compensation, for life. These managers are William T. Turman, president, Mrs. Walker Schell, secretary, and Omer O. Rhodes, treasurer. The managers have chosen John Rogers Cox, a representative of one of the city's oldest families, and a graduate of the art department of the University of Pennsylvania, as director.

The policy of the gallery is to acquire and exhibit painting and sculpture by present day American artists. Besides its own collection the gallery will exhibit loan collections of contemporary and period art and crafts. The collection owned by the gallery at the time of its opening includes such outstanding works as Grant Wood's "Spring in Town," Thomas Benton's "Threshing Wheat," Edward Hopper's "Route 6, Eastham," Charles Burchfield's "Old Houses in Winter," and Gladys Rockmore Davis' "Deborah." Other artists represented in the gallery's permanent collection are Aaron Bohrod, Raphael Soyer, John McCrady, Moses Soyer, Peter Hurd, James Chapin, Ernest Fiene, Ogden Pleissner, Adolf Dehn, George Grosz, Georges Schreiber, Lawrence Beall Smith and Zoltan Sepeshy.

## TERRE HAUTE AND ITS MILITARY SPIRIT

Perhaps because its earliest history was connected with wars and rumors of wars, Terre Haute always has been noted for its military spirit. In every war since Capt. Zachary Taylor defeated the Indians at Fort Harrison in 1812, Terre Haute has been quick to furnish its quota of soldiers to support the government in its military undertakings. In the Mexican war, Capt. Philip Kearney, later a distinguished soldier in the Civil war, organized a company of dragoons here, and he is said to have drilled them on Strawberry Hill, where one of the early subdivisions of the city was platted by his wife, Diana M. Kearney. In the Civil war a company organized here became a unit in the famous Eleventh Indiana Zouaves. The list of Civil war regiments organized here included the Fourteenth Indiana, the Thirty-first, the Forty-third, the Seventy-first, the Eighty-fifth, the One Hundred and Thirty-third, with a number of single companies, in cavalry, artillery and infantry. The highest ranking officer from Terre Haute in the Civil war was brevet Major General Charles Cruft, brevetted from Brigadier General for gallant conduct at the battle of Fort Donelson.

In the brief Spanish-American war, Co. B, of the 159th Indiana Volunteers, was the sole organized company furnished in that conflict. The highest ranking officer was Lieutenant Colonel Russell B. Harrison, a son of former President Benjamin Harrison, who was attached to the Inspector General's office.



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Terre Haute furnished two volunteer infantry companies, a company of engineers and a machine gun company in World War I, in addition to approximately seven thousand selective draft men. The highest ranking army officer in the World war was Lieutenant Colonel Harry L. Arnold of the Quartermaster's Corps. He is president of the Terre Haute Malleable Company. Terre Haute had a high ranking naval officer in World War I, in the person of Capt. George G. Mitchell, a graduate of Annapolis, a son of the late Isaac N. Mitchell, a well-known citizen, and an uncle of Dr. A. M. Mitchell, recently president of the Indiana State Medical Association. Capt. Mitchell had been retired in 1916 as a Lieutenant Commander, but at the outbreak of the World War he was recalled to service throughout the duration and until 1921.

In the present World War, Terre Haute furnished two companies of infantry, Companies I and L, of the 151st Infantry, in addition to the selective draft men called to the colors. Thus far in this war the highest ranking officer is Lieutenant Colonel Earl E. Weimer, of the 151st Infantry, training at Camp Shelby, Miss., in which unit he was a sergeant in World War I.

This military spirit was reflected in the local semi-military companies that flourished from the early 80's until after World War I, representing the Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias. Terre Haute had two companies in this fraternal organization, which brought much wholesome publicity to the city by their prize winning in national contests. The senior company, Terre Haute Co. No. 1, began its prize winning at St. Louis in 1884, and its list of prizes won included contests at Toronto, Canada, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Washington, D. C., Indianapolis, Detroit, San Francisco, Boston, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Pittsburgh. The junior company, Vigo Co. No. 83, organized in 1894, kept pace with the older company from that date, and the two companies achieved reputations that were not equalled by those of any other city in the entire nation. The Uniform Rank is now a thing of the past, but in its palmiest days it became a saying that if the two Terre Haute companies were entered in a national contest no other company could expect to win higher than third place, as first and second were invariably captured by the Terre Haute companies. In 1910 at Milwaukee Terre Haute Co. No. 3 won the company prize of \$1,500, the captain won the captain's prize and the right guide, corresponding to the first sergeant in a military company, won the right guide's prize.

## HAVE BROUGHT DISTINCTION TO TERRE HAUTE

Perhaps more men and women of national—some of international—fame have claimed Terre Haute as their home than of any other city of comparable size in Indiana, perhaps in the entire nation:

TO-DAY: Max Ehrmann, internationally known poet, and a native of Terre Haute, has had his prose creation, "A Prayer," printed in thirty-four languages and dialects, and millions of copies have been sold, authorized and pirated. Miss Thirza Bunce, once a teacher in the Terre Haute city schools, but for many years a Methodist missionary in the Malay states, tells of hearing "A Prayer", written in the Malay language, broadcast by a radio station in Singapore. A Malay girl, a pupil in one of Miss Bunce's classes, wrote a Romanized adaptation of the prayer, and the poet has in his possession the Malay translation in Oriental script, as well as the Romanized version written by the Malay girl. Other works by Mr. Ehrmann include, "A Fear-some Riddle," "Breaking Home Ties," "The Wife of Marobuis," and "A Passion Play." Mr. Ehrmann wrote the "Centennial Ode" when DePauw University observed its one hundredth anniversary in 1937, and was given the degree of "Doctor of Literature," the tenth person in a hundred years to be given that high honor.

Claude G. Bowers, present U. S. Ambassador to Chile, was for a number of years editor of a Terre Haute daily newspaper, and held a municipal office. During that period he was a defeated candidate for the Congress. Later he was secretary to Senator John W. Kern, was an editorial writer on the New York World, and made the keynote speech at the Democratic convention in Houston, Texas, in 1928 which nominated Alfred E. Smith for President. He is author of a number of historical works, notably a life of Thomas Jefferson. He was Ambassador to Spain during the civil war there.

Mrs. Fannie Bergherm Blumberg, wife of Benjamin Blumberg, attorney and civic leader, is the author of a series of books for children, which have attained a nation-wide circulation. The list includes "Peace Fiddler," published by Sarah Scott School, Terre Haute; "The First Circus," published by John Martin's Book; "Rowena, Tena and the Raspberries," and "Rowena, Tena and the Turkey," published by the Albert Whittemore Co., Chicago, Illinois.

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**YESTERDAY:** Paul Dresser, whose song, "On the Banks of the Wabash," has warmed the hearts of Hoosiers the world-over, was a native of Terre Haute. The song was adopted by the Indiana legislature as the state song in 1913. Other songs he wrote include "The Letter That He Longed For Never Came," "The Convict and the Bird," "The Pardon Came Too Late," and "I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier." The latter was given its first presentation by the author at an amateur minstrel show in Terre Haute, shortly after the Spanish-American War, his last appearance in public in his home town.

Theodore Dreiser (correct spelling), the world-famous novelist, was a brother of Paul, and also a native son of Terre Haute.

Mrs. Ida A. Harper, who was one of the pioneers in the fight for equal suffrage for women, began her literary career as a contributor of "A Woman's Opinions" to a Terre Haute weekly newspaper. Her comments on the men and events of those days marked her as a brilliant woman. Later she made her headquarters in New York, from which she conducted a nation-wide campaign that brought her distinction as a worthy successor to Susan B. Anthony. Mrs. Harper's "Life of Susan B. Anthony" is a masterpiece.

Emelia Kussner, one of the world's most famous miniature painters, was a native of Terre Haute. Her subjects included kings, princes and potentates, and in her work she was frequently entertained at the royal palaces of Europe.

Eugene V. Debs, four times Socialistic candidate for President of the United States, got his start in the labor movement as secretary of the "Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman," whose headquarters he located in Terre Haute. He was noted as the only man who ever ran for President while in prison, in 1920, when he was serving a term in the Federal prison at Atlanta, for alleged treasonable utterances during World War I. He was later pardoned by President Harding, and his civil rights restored. Close friends of Debs have always believed that if he had remained with the political party which first elected him to office, his personality and ability as an orator, would have made him Governor of Indiana, United States Senator, and, possibly, President of the United States.

Major Orlando J. Smith, Civil war soldier, was editor of the Terre Haute Express for many years, but left the Republican party to become a Greenbacker, when the Greenback party was at the height of its power, and he became one of its national leaders. He founded the Chicago Express as the official organ of the party, and it had a nation-wide circulation. Established the American Press Association, which made telegraphic and news plates for small daily newspapers and had branches in the principal cities. From this he amassed a fortune.

Alice Fischer, a graduate of our public schools, and a township school teacher when she made a success in amateur theatricals which fired her ambition to become an actress. She gave up school teaching, attended dramatic school in New York and became an outstanding success in her generation in the portrayal of a certain line of character parts. For many years she has made her home in New York City, and is distinguished as the founder of one of the most fashionable theatrical clubs of the metropolis.

**YESTERYEAR:** Newton Booth, once an attorney in Terre Haute, was later Governor of California and United States Senator from that state. He was an uncle of Booth Tarkington, the distinguished Indiana novelist. John P. Usher was Secretary of the Interior in the cabinets of President Abraham Lincoln and President Andrew Johnson in 1863-1865. Richard W. Thompson, an associate of Henry Clay, was Provost Marshal in the Terre Haute area during the Civil war. Secretary of the Navy during the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes, and later was President of the Panama Canal Company. His striking oratorical ability gave him the title of "The Silver Tongued Orator." Daniel W. Voorhees, known as the "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash," earned a national reputation as an orator when as a young man he defended one of the John Brown raiders at Harper's Ferry. He was for several years United States Senator from Indiana, and wielded great influence, one of his accomplishments being the creation of the present Congressional Library. Thomas H. Nelson was Minister to Chile and later Minister to Mexico. Bayless W. Hanna, who was a poet as well as a lawyer, and was known as "The Poet of the Ambraw," was Minister to the Argentine Republic. Joseph G. Cannon, for many years Speaker of the House of Representatives, studied law in Terre Haute as a young man. Colonel William E. McLean was Deputy Commissioner of Pensions during the Cleveland administration. It is a notable fact that all the men named in this paragraph were law students or members of the bar in Terre Haute at practically the same time, in the period during and immediately following the Civil war.



Terre Haute has had outstanding men during its entire history. In 1826 Col. Thomas Blake, whose descendants are still active in the community, was sent to the Congress from this district, and one hundred years ago Elisha M. Huntington was confirmed by the United States Senate as U. S. District Judge for the District of Indiana. In the early 40's James Whitcomb while a resident of Terre Haute was elected governor of Indiana and later became United States Senator.

## WHAT ONE MAN DID FOR TERRE HAUTE

An outline of the history of Terre Haute, however brief, would be incomplete without reference to Chauncey Rose, the Connecticut Yankee, whose amazing foresight nearly one hundred years ago pictured Terre Haute as the railroad center it has become, while his magnificent benefactions to the city of his adoption left an impress on the community that will endure as long as time itself. He came to this vicinity in the fall of 1817, but left shortly afterward for a winter in Kentucky. When he returned to Terre Haute in April, 1818, there were but two houses in the hamlet and the only boarding house was at Fort Harrison. In 1819 he moved to Parke county, to engage in the milling business. He sawed and furnished the lumber for the first court house of Vigo county. He returned to Terre Haute in 1825, with the modest capital of \$2,000, which with the canniness of his Scotch forbears, he increased by his merchandizing and land ventures to the large fortune which he left at his death in 1877, at the age of eighty-three years. It is doubtful if there is another city in the entire nation that owes as much in perpetuity to one man as the City of Terre Haute owes to Chauncey Rose.

In 1847 he headed the list of petitioners for a charter for the Terre Haute & Richmond railroad, for a line from Terre Haute to Richmond. When the charter was granted by the legislature he was elected president of the company, and his personal efforts were held responsible for the completion of the road. The Terre Haute & Richmond was the first railroad in Indiana that sold bonds, in the sum of \$200,000, which were later exchanged for stock. In the first ten years the stockholders received in dividends an amount equal to their original investment, and the company had a cash surplus of half a million dollars. The road between Terre Haute and Indianapolis was opened in February, 1852, with seven engines, forty box cars, thirty platform cars and seven gravel cars. In his third report as President Mr. Rose said the road needed a large number of coal cars, as it was anticipated that coal transportation would be a heavy part of the business, another instance of his foresight. With the completion of the Terre Haute & Richmond, Mr. Rose tried to get a charter through the Illinois legislature for the continuation of the line to St. Louis, but the charter was refused him and granted to the St. Louis, Alton & Terre Haute, later the Indianapolis & St. Louis, now a part of the New York Central system. That his views of the future were correct was established by the fact that later the line was built between Terre Haute and St. Louis, and like the original road, is part of the vast Pennsylvania system. He then became interested in the extension of the road which had been built from Evansville to Vincennes, and was instrumental in the completion from Vincennes to Terre Haute. Prior to this he had become interested in the construction of the Evansville & Crawfordsville railroad between Terre Haute and Rockville. When the Evansville, Terre Haute & Chicago railroad was projected he became interested in it and when the line was extended from Danville, Illinois, to Chicago, giving the coal of this region an outlet to the Northwest, he saw fruition of his views that coal transportation would be a great feature of railroad traffic in this section.

In 1840 Mr. Rose built the Prairie House, on the present site of the Terre Haute House. It stood out on the prairie, nearly a half mile east of the business section of the town, grouped around the public square. It was not a success at first, and was closed for eight years after the first year. It was re-opened later by T. C. Buntin, who gave it a great reputation, and it was visited by many of the famous men of that day, attracted by the splendid food for which it was noted.

Between 1838 and 1874 Mr. Rose platted the territory lying between Seventh street on the west, Poplar street on the south, Thirteenth street on the east, and Locust street on the north, a total of 320 acres, which he purchased from Frederick Rapp, who had acquired it through foreclosure of a mortgage. It was the largest real estate transaction in the history of the city, and it was said that the total cost of the land to Mr. Rose was \$3,300. The first quarter section, 160 acres, lying south of the National road, he paid \$1,800 for, in July, 1831. The second quarter section, lying north of the National road, he paid \$1,500 for later in the same year. Owing to some flaw in the early title to the land, litigation arose, and it was not until September, 1850, that a decision of the Indiana Supreme Court gave him full legal title to the land. The lands



included in these subdivisions are the present sites of the valuable properties of the Pennsylvania and New York Central systems, the Chicago & Eastern Illinois and Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific railroads, the Terre Haute House, the Merchants National bank, the Tribune building, the Hulman and Rea properties, and many of the leading church properties of the city.

When the Chauncey Rose will was admitted to probate in the Vigo Circuit Court in August, 1877, it opened an epoch in the history of Terre Haute that has never been surpassed in a city of like size and importance. It made benefactions to a number of institutions that were so surprising as to bring wonder to the minds of those who had been familiar with the life of the benefactor, and who knew many of his intentions towards the city of his adoption, where he had spent more than fifty years of his life. The provisions of the will showed the broadmindedness of a man who had been looked upon as a hard-headed, practical man of business, but who, the will developed, had spiritual feelings towards the community that few, aside from his closest friends, had even guessed.

To the Rose Polytechnic Institute he gave \$100,000, in addition to what he had already given the school, in cash, securities and land. To the Vigo County Orphans Home, now the Chauncey Rose School, he gave \$150,000, exclusive of money and land previously given it. To the Rose Dispensary he gave \$75,000, and to the Ladies' Aid Society, now the Rose Ladies' Aid Society, he gave \$50,000. These trusts have been so well managed that to-day they represent a total of many times the original endowments. The Rose Polytechnic represents a valuation of approximately \$2,600,000, the Rose Dispensary of more than \$400,000, the Chauncey Rose Home of \$600,000, and the Rose Ladies' Aid Society a value of \$150,000. The life and deeds of Chauncey Rose demonstrate the fact that Wordsworth's lines, oft quoted, are untrue, when he says, "The good die first, but those whose hearts are dry as summer dust burn to the socket." Rather, they prove the truth of another poet's lines, "The good that men do lives after them."

## MEMORIALS AND OLD LANDMARKS

Numerous memorials and old landmarks are located in Terre Haute and vicinity, commemorating persons and events that have figured in its history, including the following:

**Chauncey Rose Memorial**, erected by the Banks of the Wabash Association, on the lower section of Dresser Drive, facing the Wabash river in Fairbanks park. The plans provide for a natural amphitheatre with a seating capacity of five thousand. There are eight twenty-eight foot marble columns placed on a stone porch forty feet square, the bowl of the amphitheatre being crossed by stone pathways, and walks fourteen feet wide and one hundred feet in length run north and south in a wide curve. The total cost of the memorial was \$68,198, of which the association furnished \$23,000.

**Dresser Memorial and Drive**. The Paul Dresser Memorial Association has a fund of approximately \$35,000, raised by nation-wide voluntary subscriptions, with which it is proposed to erect a fitting memorial to the author of "On the Banks of the Wabash" at the west end of the bridge over the Wabash river on U. S. 40. Part of this memorial will be known as Dresser Drive, erected by the Park Board of the city, which has been completed from the bridge through Fairbanks park. When completed it will encircle the city.

**Emeline Fairbanks Library**. Erected by the late Crawford Fairbanks and presented to the city as a memorial to his mother.

**Fort Harrison Marker**. Located on the site of the old fort, north of Terre Haute, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the battle fought on September 4, 1812.

**Vigo County Court House Bell**, a gift of Col. Francis Vigo, in whose honor the county was named.

**Monument to the memory of eleven Confederate soldiers who died as prisoners of war in Terre Haute**. Erected by the Federal government in Woodlawn Cemetery.

**Monument erected to the memory of Joseph Liston**, as the first settler in Vigo county, in Brown cemetery on the Black Hawk road, southeast of Terre Haute.

**Monument erected in the Court House yard to the memory of Col. Richard W. Thompson**, former Secretary of the Navy.

**Soldiers and Sailors Monument**, erected in the Court house yard, dedicated to the soldiers and sailors of Vigo county who served in the Civil war. Erected jointly by the Vigo County Memorial Association and the Board of County Commissioners.

# Indiana Today

Soldiers Monument in Lewis, Pierson township, erected by General Charles Cruft Post No. 284, Grand Army of the Republic, now defunct.

Bronze tablet erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the former Hook school, Fourth and Mulberry streets, on the first lot dedicated to public school purposes by the Terre Haute Land Company in 1818.

Monument to Claude Herbert, erected at Fifth and Wabash avenue, by the camp of Spanish-American War Veterans, named in his honor. Herbert lost his life on December 19, 1898, in saving the lives of others in a fire which destroyed the Havens & Geddes building at Fifth and Wabash, where he was playing Santa Claus.

Memorial Stadium, erected at a cost of \$400,000 by the citizens of Terre Haute, through the Park Board and the efforts of Mayor Ora D. Davis, in honor of the men and women who served in World War I.

Bronze Tablets in Memorial Stadium, listing approximately seven thousand men and women of Vigo county, who served in World War I.

Old stone boundary line marker where the Illinois-Indiana boundary leaves the Wabash river ten miles southwest of Terre Haute. The stone was re-set in concrete, September 4, 1928, on the site where originally placed by the State of Illinois in 1823.

Fairbanks Park, presented to the City of Terre Haute by the late Crawford Fairbanks and Edward P. Fairbanks, as a memorial to their father, former Mayor Henry Fairbanks.

Old landmarks include Markle's Mill, northeast of the city, where the New York Central railroad crosses Otter Creek, which was erected by Abram-Markle in 1817, said to be the first flouring mill built east of the Allegheny mountains, and the birthplace of Paul Dresser, a brick cottage on Walnut street, between First and Second streets.



# TERRE HAUTE

## Our Long Ago Past

LOCAL HISTORY

Vigo County Public Library

PAMPHLET FILE



TERRE HAUTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

631 CHERRY STREET · TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

INDIANA ROOM

## Historic Old Fort Harrison

The advance northward from Vincennes through the wilderness began on the morning of Sept. 26, 1811. The troops arrived at a point on the Wabash sixty-five miles from Vincennes and a short distance above the present site of Terre Haute, on the second of October. They were now within the heart of the purchase of 1809, which had been so strenuously opposed by Tecumseh. Here on beautiful high ground on the east bank of the river, Harrison determined to erect the fort he had been advocating for a year and a half. The stockade with a block house at three of the angles was completed on the 27th of October and christened Fort Harrison by Daviess, a great admirer of the commander. It was described by the latter as "a very handsome and strong work."

On the night of September 4, 1812, Fort Harrison was attacked. A number of squatters lived in the vicinity of the fort. On the evening of the third two young men who were making hay were killed by the Indians. Late in the evening of the following day, between thirty and forty Indians arrived from Prophet's Town. The garrison was in command of Captain Zachary Taylor. The young commander was just recovering from a severe attack of the fever. A majority of his men were ill. About 11 o'clock in the night the firing by one of the sentinels gave the alarm of the attack. The men were ordered to their posts immediately. The Indians had set fire to one of the block houses. The fire ascended to the roof and endangered the adjoining barracks which helped to form the fortifications.

"Although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire directed against them, the men used such exertion that they kept it under and before day raised a temporary breast-work as high as a man's head. The Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted, in every part of the barracks. I had but one other man killed, and he lost his life by being too anxious. He got into one of the galleries in the bastion and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down in an instant he was shot dead. . . . After keeping up a constant fire (which we began to return with some effect after daylight) until about six o'clock the next morning, they removed out of the reach of our guns. . . . We lost the whole of our provisions but must make out to live on green corn until we can get a supply."

Fortunately, Taylor's presence of mind did not forsake him. He ordered buckets of water brought from the well. A portion of the roof that joined the block-house was thrown off. The fire was finally extinguished and a temporary breastwork raised to fill in the breach. There is an interesting story of the part played by a woman, Julia Lambert, in the defense of the fort. The water in the well, the sole source of supply, which was being drawn up by a bucket, was about to fail. Julia Lambert then asked to be lowered into the well. She filled the buckets by means of a gourd and thus helped to save the day. The Indians all the while poured in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows. About six o'clock on the next morning, September 5, the Indians withdrew. Before leaving, the horses and hogs belonging to the nearby settlers were driven up and shot. The cattle and oxen were driven off. Only one man was killed and two wounded in the fort during the attack. After waiting a few days, Taylor dispatched two men by water to Vincennes for provisions and reinforcements. They found the river so well guarded that they were obliged to return. Two other men were then sent out with orders to go by land, depending entirely on the woods in the daytime.

As soon as the news reached the territorial capital, Colonel William Russell of the Seventh Regiment, U. S. Infantry, marched to the relief of Fort Harrison with 1,200 men, reaching that place without meeting any opposition on September 16. The fort was not molested thereafter. "The brave defense made by Captain Zachary Taylor at Fort Harrison is one bright ray amid the gloom of incompetency which has been shown in so many places," wrote John Gibson, acting governor of Indiana Territory.



# Terre Haute Remembers Way Back When

Terre Haute was laid out and platted in the fall of 1816 by the Terre Haute Land Company, composed of Cuthbert and Thomas Bullett of Louisville, Kentucky; Abraham Markle of Harrison; Hyacinth LaSalle of Vincennes and Jonathan Lindley of Orange County, Indiana. The company held patents from the United States to thirteen tracts of land on the Wabash river in the vicinity of Fort Harrison. All titles to lots in this purchase were derived from these men as original proprietors.

The word "Terre Haute" derived from the French "terre" land, and "haute" high, signifies high land. This name was bestowed by early explorers not so much on account of its elevation as from the fact that this is the only high ground approaching the river for several miles. Beautifully situated on the east bank of the Wabash River in Vigo County, it spreads out on a high level plateau about fifty feet above the river surface.

In the original Terre Haute a belt of heavy timber and a tangled growth of underbrush and vines extended along the river bank reaching eastward as far as Sixth Street where it met the prairie, which in turn extended to the bluff. Some of the oldest citizens tell of their parents shooting squirrel and other game in the woods where Sixth Street now extends.

In 1817 the new town of Terre Haute presented a truly pioneer appearance. There were only a few log cabins scattered along the river and these of the rudest description. After Indiana's admission into the union, January 21, 1816, new life was infused into the pioneers of Terre Haute, and the settlement began at once to improve.

In January, 1818, Vigo County was organized and as an inducement to locate the county seat at Terre Haute, the proprietors deeded to the county some 80 lots besides the public square and paid into the county treasury \$4000.

The original site of Terre Haute extended from the river east to the west side of Fifth Street, and from the north side of Oak on the south to the south side of Eagle Street on the north. Lots were numbered from 1 to 308. Third Street now was Market Street then and Wabash now was Wabash then. All east and west streets were sixty-five feet wide except Wabash, which then was 81½ feet wide. The streets north and south were made of the same width as Wabash except Market which was 99 feet wide. What was called the "county road" was identified with the present Eighth Street.

The first steamer reached Terre Haute in 1822 and by 1838 as many as 800 steamers came here from New Orleans, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh.

The first newspaper arrived in 1823 and the dissemination of news forged another link in the unifying of the new country. Later the railroads eliminated the need of the Pony Express and again communication was quickened. The telegraph and telephone put in a later appearance, but their arrival proved that Terre Haute was growing up.

The first mayor of the town of Terre Haute was Elijah Tillotson who was elected in May, 1838. His last resting place is marked by a monument in the south central part of Woodlawn cemetery.

In April, 1853, Terre Haute was incorporated as a city under the laws of the state enacted in 1852. The first election was held May 30, 1853, and William H. Edwards was chosen the first mayor of the city.

## The Heritage of the Wabash Valley

In that far off and long ago, the Wabash flowed through wilderness so dense that the sunlight scarcely penetrated to the ground. In the soothing company of stately sycamores, honey locusts, and stalwart oaks, its rippling waters murmured to the moon of the unbelievable changes ahead, and of the noble men and women destined to heed the call to a new country, a new freedom.

Then came humanity and the unbroken forest vibrated with life and color. Red savages roamed the woods and contended with each other for supremacy. The Miamis and Kickapoos, the Shawnees and Potawatommies stalked the deer and buffalo while they dreaded the coming of the white man. The birch bark canoe glided up and down the Wabash, and after a lapse of time, a trading post was born where the white man exchanged colorful calico, beads, and mirrors for the red man's furs.

When once the realization took root that the fertile fields of the "Prairie City" to be offered rich opportunities for home building, covered wagons with lumbering oxtteams began to appear against the horizon, and swishing through the tall grasses, rode straight into the land of promise. The simple furniture and cooking utensils housed under the canvas of covered wagons was for hundreds of eager pioneers a temporary shelter, while around the dancing flames of their campfires they broke bread and planned their future homes, the humble hearth-stones that would grow into castles where children might grow into sturdy men and women—builders of the Wabash Valley Empire.

The Wabash became the artery of travel and traffic in all this section through the forethought of the pioneers; moreover it saved them from stagnation and the death of isolation. Its waters became the life blood, the fluid power that flowed through the channels of trade and stimulated business then in its primitive state to the height of success.



T. H. History

INDIANA ROOM  
PAMPHLET FILE

Historical Notes of Terre Haute, Indiana,  
as taken from the "Art Souvenir of Terre  
Haute, Indian." Published under the Aus-  
pices of the Terre Haute Gazette, in 1894.

Written by Robert Clifton on the  
seventh day of February, Nineteen Hun-  
dred and Twenty Nine.-----

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REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Terre Haute History



## HISTORICAL.

Terre Haute and Indiana are of the same age. Both were born in 1816.

In the great territory between the Mississippi river and the Allegheny mountains and the lakes and the Ohio river, the Wabash is the most considerable river. On the east bank of the stream, midway between its head waters and its mouth, nature had placed an elevated plateau. It was the natural site for a town. The highland that made it the proper location for a town suggested to the French voyageurs its name of Terre Haute.

Later on the descriptive appellation of the Prairie City was given when the little cluster of houses huddled together on the river bank had spread out from the thin fringe of forest skirting the river at that point to the open prairie beyond. But tree planting along the streets and in the yards began so early, and was prosecuted so persistently, that the Forest City would be more appropriate now.

Terre Haute is in latitude 39(degrees) 28 (minutes) north, longitude 10(degrees) 20(minutes) west. Its altitude above sea level is 498 feet.

One Joseph Kitchell had entered the land on which the town stands, acquiring title from the government. Of him it was purchased by the Terre Haute Land Company consisting of Cuthbert and Thomas Bullitt, of Louisville, Abraham Markle, Hyacinth La Salle and Jonathan Lindley. They organized a town company and filed the original town plat October 25th, 1816, and an amended plat May 20th, 1825. When it became incumbent upon the three commissioners appointed by act of the legislature to locate a county seat for the newly organized county of Vigo, the Terre Haute Town Company secured it by a donation of the public square and other lots, and \$4,000 for the erection of a court house and other buildings.

The first census of the town was taken by the late Charles T. Noble in 1829, for his own satisfaction, and showed 579 inhabitants. Another census was taken by Mr. Noble, August 5th, 1835, and it disclosed a population of 1,214 inhabitants. The United States census of 1840 showed 2,300; 1850, 3,572; 1870, 16,103; 1880, 26,042; 1890, 30,217.



## HISTORICAL.

Incorporation as a town was accomplished under act of the legislature Jan. 46th, 1832. April 30th, 1843, it was decided by a popular vote to become a city and the first election for city officers occurred on the 30th of May, 1843, the total number of votes cast at the election being 752.

In its early days the only way of getting to Terre Haute or away from it was by the river. Other towns were far distant. Man set to work to

bring them near. The first step was the completion, in 1823, as far as Terre Haute, of the National Road, that great highway projected from Maryland to Missouri by the National government. In 1849 the Wabash and Erie Canal was opened and the first boat reached the town. It was an epoch in its history. But the canal was doomed almost before it was done, for in 1852 the railroad from Terre Haute to Indianapolis was opened and the frontier town of a few years before was thenceforth to be linked by iron bands to all the continent. Other roads followed in quick succession until today it is the center of nine roads radiating from it as the spokes from the hub of a wheel, making it as a railroad center the second city in Indiana.

In certain widely divergent lines Terre Haute stands preeminent among her sister cities of the State. No other city of Indiana has so many educational institutions or so many students. She is the Athens and Alexandria of Indiana.

In the production of pig iron and the manufactures into which iron enters, no other city in the State approaches Terre Haute. This is also true of the manufactured products from corn, and of the production of alcohol.

In those essential elements of urban existence, light water, cheap fuel gas and street transportation, she is equipped as well as any city in the world, for she has the latest and best.

Within the next few years there is every reason to expect a development and a growth greater than at any time in the past, for her advantages are every day becoming better known and all they need, to be appreciated is to be known.

T. H. History

INDIANA RO

PAMPHLET FILE

HISTORICAL NOTES OF TERRE HAUTE

by

ROBERT CLIFTON

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## EARLY GOVERNMENT OF TERRE HAUTE

Terre Haute was founded in 1816. At first there was a rapid sale of lots in the new town on account of the easy terms which were nothing down and twelve and twenty-four months to but later on the cash receipts from these sales grew disappointingly small and a period of stagnation ensued.

As a means toward remedying this condition an appeal was made to the state legislature to have the then undecided county seat of Vigo County fixed at Terre Haute.

After much political dickering on the part of both those and against the measure, the state legislature, in January, 1817, passed an act putting the old location of the county seat into the hands of a set of commissioners appointed by the legislature.

These commissioners met at the house of Truman Blackman on Fort Harrison prairie on March 21, and after considering various contracts decided upon the one presented by the Proprietors of Terre Haute.

It seems that things went well with the infant town after this, for in 1832 it was incorporated as a town by an act of the legislature. It was given the name and the style of the "President and Trustees of the Town of Terre Haute."

The town was divided into five wards and one trustee elected for each ward. These trustees elected the first municipal officers of the town, viz: President, F. James McCall; Clerk, Jas. T. Moffatt, Assessor, Chas B. Taylor; Treasurer, Samuel Crawford; Constable and Collector, William Mars.

In 1838, a new charter was granted by the legislature which provided for the 1 election of a mayor and ten councilmen.

This was accepted by a vote of the citizens in March, 1838 and the following May an election was held for mayor and Councilmen. Elijah Tillotson was elected the first mayor of the town. A monument still marks his lasting resting place in the South central part of Woodlawn Cemetery; it bears this inscription: Elijah Tillotson, born Sept. 22, 1791, Died March 31, 1857." Beneath this appear the words "First Mayor of Terre Haute."

The new charter as approved gave the town government these powers: "1. To suppress and restrain disorderly houses and groceries, billiard tables, nine and ten-pin alleys, and to authorize the destruction and demolition of all instruments for the purpose of gaming. 2. To regulate and determine the time and place of swimming on the river near town. 3. To restrain and punish vagrants, mendicants, street beggars, etc. 4. To prohibit the rolling of hoops, playing ball, flying of kites or any other amusements or practices having a tendency to annoy persons in the streets or endanger their safety, or to frighten teams within the town. 5. To regulate and restrain operators of steamboats and stages. 6. To regulate cartmen and draymen. 7. To regulate the quality of bread and provide for the forfeiture of a different quality."

At first the members of the council served without pay and performed their duties well, but in 1842 Mayor Harrison stated that his duties had become so numerous and varied that he felt that he was entitled to pay for his services. He stated that he considered \$100.00 as a fair salary for the year.

The first town hall was built in 1843 at the Northeast corner of Third and Ohio Streets. It housed both county and city officials, it was used for the purpose until the building burned in 1865.



In 1843 the office of mayor was discontinued by an act of the legislature, the duties of this office being performed by the president of the council. This arrangement continued for ten years.

A large part of the town's revenue came from grocery and tavern licenses; the treasurer reported \$502.50 for the eight months ending Jan. 1840. Taxes were not so debatable a subject in the city's government then as they have grown to be at the present time. In 1843 when the actual town hall was built, the total income of the city from taxes was \$1089.14. The tax rate of the previous year had been ten cents on the \$100.00; the rate for 1850 was fourteen cents. Tax money was not given for the support of the schools until 1860.

The fire department of early Terre Haute was a voluntary one and was known as the bucket brigade. Water was passed in buckets along a line extending from the water supply to the scene of the fire. Although the men belonging to this brigade worked energetically at their task of fire-fighting, it proved entirely insufficient to meet the demands. Consequently, when the new council came into existence in 1838, one of its first acts was the authorization of the purchase of a handpump fire engine named the "Hoosier". It also appointed a fire warden.

In order to secure a quick and adequate supply of water at the scene of the fire, the council announced to the citizens in 1839, that \$3.00 would be allowed for the first hogshead delivered at a fire, \$2.00 for the second, and \$1.00 for the third and twenty-five cents for each succeeding hogshead until the fire was extinguished. To simplify this problem of water supply, the council, in 1840, appropriated \$300.00 to build a public cistern in each ward.

In 1843 the office of mayor was discontinued by an act of the legislature, the duties of this office being performed by the president of the council. This arrangement continued for ten years.

A large part of the town's t



This same year saw many other important improvements in the fire department. A hook and ladder outfit was bought and a company organized to operate it, with T. A. Madison as foreman; an engine company was organized under Samuel Crawford, captain; a company of fire guards was organized Demas Deming, captain, James Wasson, first assistant; Thomas H. Blake, second assistant, Joseph Cooper, third assistant and Chauncey Rose fourth assistant. All of these men gave their services without pay.

Early Terre Haute is spoken of as a town in which all classes of her citizens willingly cooperated to secure good order and obedience to laws. An efficient police department is quoted as one of the main factors in bringing about this desirable result. It is said that the zeal and energy with which the members of the force fulfilled their respective duties gave evidence of their appreciation of the importance of their work.

The new ordinance passed by the council from time to time, shows it to have been a veritable Civic League according to the modern acceptance of the term. It had an eye to beauty as is evidenced by the following law: "Hereafter no person or persons shall be permitted to feed horses, cows, hogs and other domestic animals upon any of the sidewalks of the town of Terre Haute under penalty of one dollar with costs of suit for each offense."

This spirit was further manifested in the ordering of the planting of shade trees and in the removal of unsightly sign boards hanging across the street. Nor was it negligent as regards safety. Street fighting was an abomination to be severely punished, nor was a man allowed to let his team run away. At least we read of one instance where a man was fined \$10.00 and costs for such an offense, but that it was later reduced to \$5.00 by the city owing to extenuating circumstances.

In April 1853, Terre Haute was incorporated as a city under the laws of the state enacted in 1852. The first election was held May 30, 1853, and William H. Edwards was chosen the first mayor of the city, and re-elected to the office the next year. The charter has remained substantially the same to the present day.



LOCAL HISTORICAL

INDIANA ROOM

Vigo County Public Library

## ERAS, PERIODS AND EPOCHS OF TERRE HAUTE HISTORY

On the basis of ownership of the land, the history of Terre Haute is divided into three eras: the era of control by the savages; the era of struggle from possession by the French, English and Americans; and the recent era during which the city was founded and grew to its present dimensions.

On the basis of the chief resources used by the city and the resulting economic development of Terre Haute, the recent era is subdivided into four periods: the prospecting period of the utilization of the virgin land in the founding of Terre Haute; the river-farming period in the history about the city from 1820 to 1855; the next period from 1855 to about 1885, characterized by the utilization of the farms, the railroads and a declining use of the river; and a fourth or modern period, noted for dependence of the city chiefly on the basic resources of farms and minerals, and the use of railroads and roads.

Each period in turn can be subdivided advantageously into epochs characterized by the use of some particular resource, as for example an epoch of canal development during the river farming period, and again the most recent epoch of modern Terre Haute noted for its remarkable development and use of roads for auto transportation.

The uses made of the natural resources at the disposal of the city have profoundly influenced the economic development of Terre Haute and the kind of life drama lived by its citizens.

### Era of Control by the Savages

Mounds, supposedly left by the Mound Builders in the Wabash Valley are concrete reminders of the shadowy history of an extinct race. The location of such mounds is shown west of Middletown on the accompanying map of Vigo county. Small mounds are said to have been located immediately north and south of Terre Haute; but they have been effaced. There were perhaps three hundred mounds in Vigo county.

Later, Indiana came under the dominion of the Algonquin Indians, who were spreading over the state upon the advent of French explorers, the first white men to visit Indiana. The Indiana history of the Wabash Valley largely is associated with the Miami tribe of the Algonquins who migrated southward from the Wisconsin and Michigan country. An Indian village stood on the high banks of the Wabash River, on a spot now occupied by the Terre Haute Water Works. This village probably belonged to the Wea band of the Miami Indians and is said to have been called

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A civil engineer was employed by the company to lay out the town. Three sites were available for the proposed village; the terrace where the river impinges against the terrace three miles below the present city, where there were a few dwelling; the present site where there was a "very considerable encampment"; and the terrace where the river impinges against the terrace at the site of Fort Harrison where "the cabins along the road were numerous." The first and third sites were dismissed because in each case the river bends abruptly away from the terrace, thus introducing a stretch of low flood plain between most of the site and the river. The present site was selected by the engineer because at Terre Haute, the river extends almost straight along the western margin of the terrace for a distance of about two miles, thus affording an extensive, non-flooding river front with deep water. Furthermore, the site chosen, being between the others, probably would outstrip both.

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## ERAS, PERIODS AND EPOCHS OF TERRE HAUTE HISTORY

On the basis of ownership of the land, the history of Terre Haute is divided into three eras: the era of control by the savages: the era of struggle for possession by the French, English and Americans: and the recent era during which the city was founded and grew to its present dimensions.

On the basis of the chief resources used by the city and the resulting economic development of Terre Haute, the recent era is subdivided into four periods: the prospecting period of the utilization of the virgin land in the founding of Terre Haute; the river-farming period in the history about the city from about 1820 to 1855; the next period from 1855 to about 1885, characterized by the utilization of the farms, the railroads and a declining use of the river; and a fourth or modern period, noted for dependence of the city chiefly on the basic resources of farms and minerals, and the use of railroads and roads.

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The uses made of the natural resources at the disposal of the city have profoundly influenced the economic development of Terre Haute and the kind of life drama lived by its citizens.

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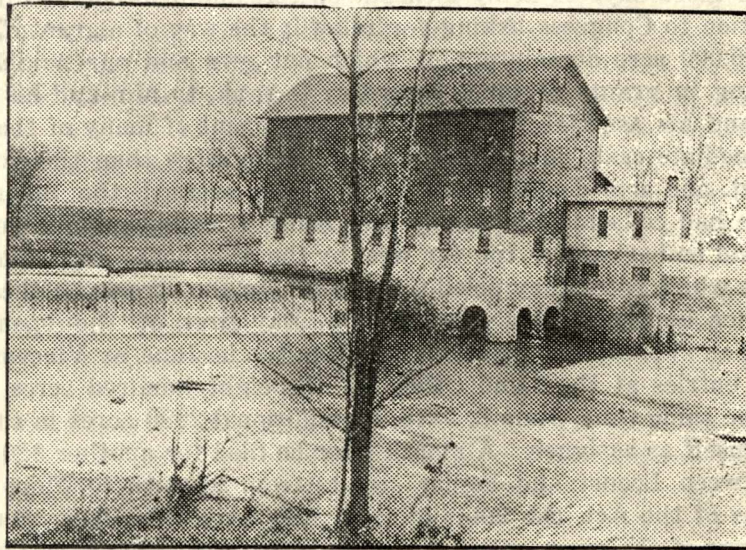
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# ABRAHAM MARKLE

1770-1826

A. R. MARKLE - 1926.



Markle's Mill on Otter Creek

Built 1816

The Oldest Mill Now Operating  
in Indiana

**A**BRAMHAM MARKLE was born in Ulster County, New York, October 26, 1770, of Rondout Valley Dutch ancestry, and spent the early part of his life in the midst of the Revolutionary battleground that ebbed and flowed through the Hudson Valley.

In common with that restless group of the period which was the source of so many pioneer emigrations to the farther west, we find him in May of 1794, leaving Niagara-on-the-Lake for some unknown destination, bearing the certificate of his Masonic standing, "An Honest Brother."

In December of the following year we find him buying land in Onondago County, New York, near Syracuse, but we have no other record of him in the United States before the War of 1812.

His purchase of land in Upper Canada in May, 1806, was followed by others in the same locality and in the next six years, he became a citizen by residence, of sufficient importance to be appointed a member of the Provincial Parliament, where he at once became a prominent figure during the stormy times of the war.

Repeatedly incurring the displeasure of the Crown for his utterances favorable to annexation by the United States, and after several futile indictments by the Government, each resulting in his acquittal by the juries of his neighbors, he was finally, under the instructions of the Acting Attorney General, transported down the river for trial by those more disposed to lend their help to the Crown, and on this occasion he made his escape, tradition says, by reason of his Masonic affiliation, crossed the river and joined the army as a volunteer under another fellow member of the Assembly named Joseph Willcocks.

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Enlisting as Captain he served as such from December 12, 1813, until his promotion to Major, April 19, 1814, receiving official citations for meritorious conduct at Fort Erie, where on the death of Lieut. Col. Willcocks, he succeeded to the command.

For his service in the army he received the regular pay of such officers, but suffered the confiscation of his Canadian property as an offset. His holdings at the time of his departure from Canada amounted to over fifteen hundred acres and were valued at more than twenty-seven thousand dollars.

With the close of the war, he and his fellow members faced the prospect of the loss of even the little pay granted in those days to army men and officers and in January, 1816, Abraham Markle's name headed a petition to Congress asking for relief in the way of a grant of land in the Harrison Purchase; that 2,900,000 acre domain out of which our own and our neighboring counties have been carved, resulting in grants of land, according to rank, to him and his men.

Major Markle and his associates secured the assignment of many of these claims for land by the payment in immediate cash, in many instances, of no more than the extra pay due the men benefitted by the act, and armed with these warrants he crossed the mountains from Central New York where he had collected his family and many friends, built three large flat boats at Olean, New York, and embarked for the far west by the Allegheny and Ohio rivers for the mouth of the Wabash, from which point they poled their boats up the stream to their land of promise.

President Madison had issued his proclamation, May first, of the opening of the lands for entry by the Canadian Volunteers on the first Monday in June at Vincennes, and in due time the Major filed his entries at the Land Office for the eight hundred acres to which he was entitled, securing at the same time, June 3, 1816, an additional 2080 acres in the names of others of his party and for himself as assignee. A month later he filed for another 320 acres, this being the ground included between Locust and Poplar streets from Seventh to Thirteenth streets.

Under the terms of the Act, the lands of these men were to be in quarter sections and by reason of the meanderings of the river, many desirable tracts were known as fractional sections containing more or less than the 160 acre rectangles to which the Volunteers were entitled by their warrants.

Two of these were those lying between Hulman and Locust streets, west of Seventh street and at the land sale held on the thirteenth and fourteenth of September, other bidders ran the price of the 416 acres north of Poplar street to \$32.13 an acre with sixteen dollars an acre for the 461 acres lying south of it. Eleven other tracts were bid off to Joseph Kitchell who was the successful contestant for which he was to pay the Government more than thirty thousand dollars, the important part of which was the first payment of one fourth of the total, \$7594.07, which was required to be paid at once before the close of the sale. Of this amount Kitchell had not one dollar, as a result of which he assigned his right to purchase the lands to five men who later styled themselves through the ownership of the lands, "The Proprietors of the Town of Terre Haute". Kitchell was by the contract made with him, their agent to lay out and sell such lands as they might wish to dispose of and to lay out a town to be sold immediately.

Accordingly there was filed at Vincennes—all this vicinity was then included in Knox County—on October 25, a plat of the Town of Terre Haute lying between the present streets of Eagle, Fifth, Swan and the Wabash river and in the few newspapers of the time in Cincinnati, Louisville, Vincennes appeared notices of the sale of lots to take place at the site of the future town, on October thirtieth and thirty-first.

At the sale about one hundred and fifty lots were sold for an amount in excess of Twenty-one Thousand dollars, building began at once in many cases and the town began its life as a country village with stores, shops, and houses in a short time.

On the plat in addition to the streets and alleys forming a part of any other town site were two double size lots, marked respectively with a rude drawing of a church and a school, and in the center of the tract a single block was reserved, its purpose betrayed by a drawing of an unmistakable court house. As this was still Knox County, it might have been thought that Vincennes was to be deprived of its importance as the seat of justice, but the proprietors had other plans for they sent Kitchell to Corydon at once to lobby with the statesman there for the erection of a new county to be called Sullivan, in which he was successful, but in the attempt to make Terre



Haute the county seat, the efforts were unavailing and Carlisle was chosen instead. However at the next session, the successor to Kitchell, John Owens, was present and had another new county set off of Sullivan, to be called Vigo, and in the Act it was provided that the selection of the seat of justice should be left to a committee appointed in the act, who were to meet at the house of Truman Blackman, near Fort Harrison, incidentally the nearest house to that of Major Markle, there to select the most eligible site for the county seat. The date was set for March 21, 1818, and on that day appeared three of the five commissioners, who met with Major Markle and the agent John Owens and accepted the offer of the proprietors of the town consisting of One Thousand dollars, payable in sixty days, \$3775.00 in bonds secured by the lots sold at the previous sale, the court or public square and seventy lots in the soon to be flourishing town.

Then the county of Vigo had a home and the Town of Terre Haute a use for their public square.

Having entered his land Major Markle proceeded to make use of it, the first effort being to establish his home and build the mill on Otter Creek, after which he plunged into the task of acquiring more land, carrying on meanwhile his business of milling and distilling erected as a combined saw and grist mill, as well as a distillery; it was the earliest industry in the settlement of our county, and for many years the only possible outlet for the corn which was raised so heavily on the fertile soil of the prairie.

Buyers of land from the government were obliged to pay for it in specie, gold or silver, obtainable in large part only from "down the river", as the territory was described on the lower Mississippi; and for it were shipped almost unbelievable quantities of corn either as grain or its transformed substitutes, pork and whiskey.

Corn in the ear could only be shipped at certain seasons due to the warmth and humidity of the lower latitudes, pork only for a short period in midwinter in its fresh form, but whisky commanded a constant market and could be shipped at any time in any way.

Flour was another all-the-year-round product for the lower river market and many entries in the old ledgers of the mill testify to the worth of that turned out at the old mill.

Much, of course, of the trade was barter—pelts, wool, even cotton, spun and raw, logs, grain, and other products of the farm being exchanged for the flour, meal, whisky and lumber, as well as the "foreign merchandise" from the far away outer world.

In the way of real estate transactions, the record of deeds at the county seat reveal the ownership at various times of thousands of acres of what is now Vigo County.

The act that established the County also provided for the meeting of the first Circuit Court at the house of Truman Blackman, and there on the fourth Monday in April, 1818, met Associate Judges Moses Hoggatt and James Barnes. These appointed Nathaniel Huntington Prosecuting Attorney, protem.; approved the bonds of Truman Blackman as Sheriff, Alexander Barnes, Coroner and Curtis Gilbert, Clerk; admitted George Rogers, Clark Sullivan, Samuel Wittaker, Jonathan Doty and Nathaniel Huntington to practice before the court, following which the Grand Jury was charged and withdrew, tradition says, to a log under a large sugar tree in the front yard, still standing where those long gone jurors convened more than a century ago. Later they reported that they had nothing to report and passed on into history.

Following this report and there being nothing further before the Court, it adjourned to meet the following day at the house of Henry Redford in Terre Haute. This was the first hotel or tavern built in the town, being built by Redford following the sale of lots in 1816.

At this sale an error was made by the clerk of the sale and he bought lot No. 197, whereas the same lot was found to have been also sold to George C. Gwathmey for \$207.00 and two bonds having been given for the one lot, the matter was satisfactorily adjusted by giving Gwathmey lot No. 196. Redford had intended to buy No. 193, but having the bond made out as No. 197 he waived his rights to the other so that his Eagle and Lion Tavern was built at the southeast corner of First and Wabash instead of First and Cherry Streets.

Vacant space on the prairie with but some bright new stakes to distinguish one lot, or one street from another, left little to choose.

In this large two-story log house with its flaming sign of a sorely dejected British lion, fast losing its eyes under the attacks of a victorious eagle, it was for a time the only place of entertainment or public assembly.



Here met the early courts, the county commissioners; here was in 1819 established the first and for many years the only Masonic Lodge, Number Nineteen, and here, too, were held those early celebrations of our national holiday, the glorious Fourth and at which, following the banquet, then, as now, a prominent part of any celebration responses to the flamboyant toasts of a century ago were made by many who had taken part in making possible the very holiday itself.

Here too, came in later days the stage coach, almost our only means of communication with the outside world, the canoe, the steam boat, and the pack horse being less certain of regular schedule.

In all these we may be sure that Major Markle had a part, although there was for many years a feeling against the so-called "Canadians" because of their priority in the location of the lands, and against the Major himself because of the many suits at court which he as the resident member of the Proprietors, was compelled to bring to enforce the payment of the bonds given to secure the payment of the balances due for the lots sold in good faith.

The early dockets of our Circuit Court are filled with references to Abraham Markle, in many of which, both civil and criminal, he was defendant. Almost the first indictment for gambling was against him, another early case was for assault and battery in which he pleaded justification, and the jury believed him.

Another famous case was that of the State vs. Chunn for issuing a challenge too fight a duel, in which after his refusal to fight Major Chunn, the latter's second, Captain Cass, also challenged Major Markle, and after their indictment another series of indictments grew out of the failure or refusal of the constable to arrest the two officers. None of the cases ever came to trial, all the parties being Masons, their friends intervened at last and smoothed matters over so that neither blood nor honor were lost.

The tenth year of the life of Terre Haute found the Major in possession of many acres of the County, much property in the growing town, heavily interested in shipping and manufacturing our native products.

All this required money and it is not surprising to learn that he had turned to the most powerful and thrifty community of the day to procure it. At the height of his need he had mortgaged to Frederick Rapp, of the New Harmony community, a large quantity of land for approximately \$6,000.00, and at his death he still owed a great deal of money, the security being in almost every case, the land of this vicinity.

It was in the midst of this activity, that he died suddenly at his home, the story being that he burst a bloodvessel in his brain while pulling fence posts on the farm and, as in common with many others, he had found no time to make his will, the settlement of the estate was so badly complicated by reason of the many heirs, partners and debts, that the land between Poplar and Locust, from Seventh to Thirteenth, which had cost Markle in 1817 \$800.00, was, on foreclosure in 1828, sold to Rapp, who in turn sold it in 1831 to Chauncey Rose for \$3,300.00 and out of which grew the fortune of the latter.

And so after a life full of labor for himself, his family, his friends and the communities in which he lived, there died at his home, the little house that still stands at the entrance to the woods now called Forest Park, Major Abraham Markle, one of the pioneers who helped found the town of Terre Haute and the County of Vigo, on the twenty-sixth day of March, 1826, one hundred years ago this day, in the fifty-sixth year of his life.

The burial service was in charge of our oldest Masonic Lodge, No. 19, and he was laid to rest in the family burial ground, where today we can still see the monument to his memory, while around us in every direction stand other monuments more lasting than stone.

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